

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

May 27, 1968

For file:

Colr Frederick Wm GLAESER,  
OPNAV, cleared SI, TKH, O, I, C,  
 HX, G, EP, DOR, contacted  
me today with respect to this  
matter.

He will visit NRL, assess  
the situation and get back  
with us.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

To:

31 May 1968

MEMO FOR LOU MAZZA

SUBJ: Requested Data on Satellite 03148

Dimensions: 5 ft diameter, 47 ft long

Orientation: Stabilized with long dimension  
in direction of travel

Propulsion System: Inactive

Position Verification:

Time: 1740Z, 21 March 1968

Position: 39° 17.05' N

81° 23.09 W

Altitude: 74.869 NM

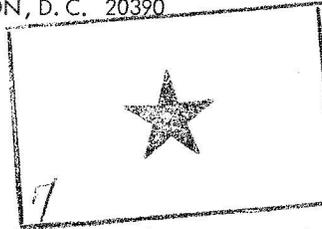
*Bill Johnson*  
MAJOR JOHNSON

*AWC*



## U. S. NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20390



IN REPLY REFER TO  
 5320-83:FHU:mle  
 NRL Prob No. RO2-49A  
 SER: 00314  
 2 MAY 1968

~~SECRET~~

From: Director, U. S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C. 20390  
 To: Director, Office of Space Systems (SAFSS), Department of the Air Force, The Pentagon, Washington, D. C. 20330

Subj: Request for Satellite Orbital Data, forwarding of (U)

1. The Radar Techniques Branch of the Radar Division of the Naval Research Laboratory recently initiated a series of observations to determine the feasibility of detecting low-altitude satellites with NRL's high frequency pulse doppler radar. The Naval Space Surveillance Computing Center at Dahlgren, Virginia has been supplying NRL with look information predictions (range, bearing, elevation and altitude vs. time) for various space objects such as satellites, rocket bodies and fragments. On the occasion of a particular observation, on 21 March 1968, preliminary velocity/range analysis indicates the probable detection of Satellite No. 87490/03148. From other documentation from the Western Test Range, it appears that Satellite 03148 was boosted into polar orbit aboard a Titan III launched 13 March 1968 under the sponsorship of the Space and Missile Scientific Organization (SAMSO) of the Air Force Systems Command. An inquiry has been made of the SPASUR Computing Center at Dahlgren as to the physical size of Satellite 03148 and also its attitude, as to whether stabilized or tumbling at the time of supposed detection which was 1738-1742 GMT on 21 March 1968. The computing center advised that such information was not available.

2. LTCOL Bradley Healey of SAMSO has advised that a request be made of Headquarters, USAF.

3. The Naval Research Laboratory therefore requests the following information on Space Catalog No. 03148 on 21 March 1968 between 1738 and 1742 hours GMT:

- a. Physical dimensions (length, width or diameter)
- b. Orientation (attitude, aspect)
- c. If orientation was changing, description of nature, extent, and time rate of change.
- d. Propulsion system status (burning, venting, inactive or expended)

In addition, if the orbit was being modified such that the object's position at the indicated times could not accurately be inferred from observation before and/or after these times, it would be helpful to have a single orbit position verification in terms of: earth latitude and longitude of sub-satellite point and height above this point at some given time within the interval, preferably near 1740 GMT.

*SAFSS-002494-68*

Copy 1 of 6 copies

GROUP-3

Downgraded at 12 year intervals;  
 Not automatically declassified.

DS 68 / 2494-A1

~~SECRET~~  
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5320-83:FHU:mle

4. NRL hopes to characterize low-altitude satellites with its HF radar in order that criteria might be developed for the detection of fractional orbit devices at radar ranges beyond the horizon.
5. Further information on this request may be obtained from Frank Utley of NRL, Autovon 8-297-3547.

*M. T. Skolnik*

M. T. SKOLNIK  
By direction

~~SECRET~~

GAMBIT



10  
4 June 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR NAVINTCOM-2 (CDR FREDERICK W. GLAESER)

SUBJECT: Request for Satellite Orbital Data

REFERENCE: BYE 13032-68

As verbally agreed, I am forwarding information requested of this office by Director/NRL in a SECRET memorandum dated 2 May 1968 related to Satellite 03148.

This information may be utilized at NRL for the purpose stated at the SECRET level of security classification, provided procedures are instituted (plan to be coordinated with this office) to insure against the chance compromise of NRP BYEMAN information.

Data is furnished as follows:

Dimensions: 5 ft diameter, 47 ft long

Orientation: Stabilized with long dimension in direction of travel

Propulsion System: Inactive

Position Verification:

Time: 1740Z, 21 March 1968

Position: 39° 17.05' N  
81° 23.09' W

Altitude: 74.869 NM

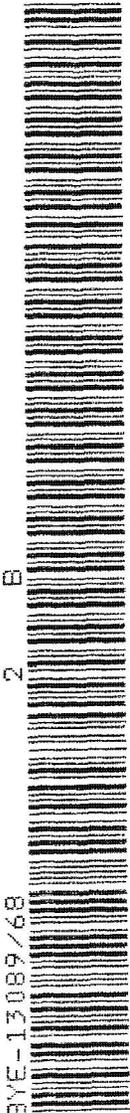
LOUIS F. MAZZA  
Assistant for Security  
NRO Staff

1100P000041

BYE 13089-68

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~~TOP SECRET~~



BYE-13089/68

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